(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated on the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A decision has been taken to constitute the Court of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of a sitting Judge of the High Court to enquire into the Godavarikhani Coal Mine Accident.

EPF interest rate

2034. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest on EPF has been fixed at 9 per cent with 0.50 per cent bonus;

(b) if so, the reasons for not keeping the existing rate of interest at 9.5 per cent; and

(c) the financial benefit expected by Government by the revised rate over the existing rate during the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund have recommended 9.5% interest rate to the Employees' Provident Fund subscribers for the year 2003-04, which included the Golden Jubilee Bonus interest rate of 0.5%.

(b) Rate of interest is decided on the basis of the income of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund from its investments and its interest liabilities to the subscribers.

(c) Nil.

EPF defaulters

2035. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major EPF defaulters in both public and private sectors together with the EPF amount pending for recovery;

(b) the circumstances leading to huge accumulation of EPF amount; and

(c) the reasons for not enforcing EPF guidelines for timely deposit of the EPF amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As on 31.03.2003, there were 367 public sector units and 850 private sector units in default of Rs. 10 lakh and above, amounting to Rs. 611.79 crores and Rs. 374.02 crores respectively. The total arrears as on 31.03.2003 stood at Rs. 1,511.79 crores.

(b) Some of the circumstances leading to accumulation of arrears of Employees' Provident Fund are financial constraints, sickness of industry, stays by courts, liquidation, closure and wilful defaults.

(c) the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has already launched a re-engineering program, which covers recovery. Monthly default is monitored through an IT assisted program called the 'Computerised Compliance Tracking System' (CCTS) and enforcement action taken as per law.

Recovery of EPF dues

2036. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total outstanding arrears due from the State, the Central Public Sector Undertakings and Private Undertakings towards Employment Provident Fund dues as on the beginning of the current fiscal year;

(b) how much of it has since been realised, till-date; and

(c) the stern measures being taken to realise EPF dues from defaulting firms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The amount of Employees Provident Fund outstanding arrears as on 1.4.2003 from the Central PSUs, State PSUs and Private Undertakings is Rs. 297.07 crores, Rs. 339.10 crores and Rs. 875.62 crores respectively.